(c) the rate of minimum wages prescribed for them and the manner in which it is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government has not conducted any specific survey to know the extent of agricultural labourers in Punjab. However, as per provisional results of Census 2001, the number of agricultural labourers in Punjab is 1498976 comprising 1119558 male and 379418 female workers. The information regarding the number of children working as agricultural labour is not available.

(c) The minimum wages fixed for agricultural labourers in Punjab are Rs.74.09 (with meal per day) or Rs. 83.79 (without meal per day). The implementation is effected through the enforcement machinery of the state Government.

Number of unemployed persons

†853. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons is increasing in the country as per the data available with the Planning Commission, regarding the number of unemployed persons;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed persons in the each month of March during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the estimated number of unemployed persons during March, 2002 on the basis of the average annual growth rate of unemployment during the last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (c) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. As per the surveys conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 (latest survey), the number of unemployed persons has marginally gone up from 75 lakh in 1993-94 to 90 lakh in 1999-2000 as per Usual Status Approach. The number of unemployed in future will depend on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the growth of the economy, growth of Labour Force and special policy interventions for creation of employment opportunities.

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana

854. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana (KSSSY) in the country to provide social security to agricultural workers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Yojana; and

(c) the status of the Yojana in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government had launched 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana - 2001' to provide social security to the landless agricultural workers. The scheme is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). It envisages the provision of life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits.

Agricultural workers between the age of 18 to 50 years are eligible for coverage under the Scheme. The agricultural worker is required to contribute Rs. 1/- per day and Government's contribution is Rs. 2/- per day per beneficiary. Initially, the scheme is being implemented in 50 selected districts covering 10 lakh agricultural worker 20000 agricultural workers from each district over a period of three years.

(c) 7473 agricultural workers have been covered under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh as on 21.2.2002.

Employment scenario in Punjab

†855. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the National Sample Survey in respect of employment situation prevailing in Punjab during the years 1999-2000, 2001 and 2001-2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.